FSTinAC – Strengthening Capacity for Food Science and Technology Teaching, Learning and Research to Add Value to Indigenous Foods For Food Security in Africa and the Caribbean

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- The Botswana Food Science and Technology Association has been established.
- Partner Higher Education Institutions are able to generate quality research in food science and technology focusing on indigenous foods.
- Four courses have been converted to online, approved and now accredited. Two courses have been improved.
- Collaborations have been established with the local stakeholders.
- The capacity of university staff was improved, some got part-time jobs.

BACKGROUND

FSTinAC aimed to foster capacity building and regional integration in the field of higher education in the thematic areas of agriculture and food security specifically looking at locally developed practices and focusing on smallholder agriculture and rural livelihoods. FSTinAC supported the strengthening of the Higher Education Institutions’ (HEIs’) capacities for research and teaching, focused on post-harvest technology, and value addition of indigenous crops and species important for the livelihoods of local populations in the south and west African and Caribbean regions. These species have significant potential and could contribute to food security, diversification and income generation.

FSTinAC involved south-south collaboration between Botswana, Ghana and Trinidad and Tobago and north-south cooperation with the University of Maribor, which has recognised expertise in added value and studying the health benefits of foods. By building this capacity, the next generation of researchers, as well as small and medium-sized enterprises, will contribute to improving food security and the diversification of rural livelihoods.

METHODOLOGY

- Human capital development
  The project offered innovative Food Science and Technology graduate programmes with a focus on post-harvest technology and agro-processing.
- Creation of new and upgraded graduate curricula
  Existing academic programmes were reviewed and upgraded and are now delivered using innovative online technology. This allows students to enrol in courses at partner universities.
- Increased inter-institutional networking
  The project developed south-south and south-north collaborations.
- Institutional strengthening to pursue research
  Collaborations with stakeholders were formed to identify the resource needs of partner institutions to enable them to focus on underutilised indigenous foods.
- Short courses/seminars for training agri-businesses
  Strengthening of entrepreneurial business capacities, particularly women-owned agri-businesses, through exposure to new technologies, introducing new products and teaching how to add value to these products.
- Enhanced food science networks and collaboration
  The project helped to strengthen networks within the partner countries. A new innovation network was established in Botswana which brought together stakeholders in the expectation sharing know-how and capacity.
### RESULTS

#### Outputs

**Capacity building**
- 4 online programmes developed and now offered in Trinidad and Tobago.
- 1 Masters programme introduced in Slovenia.

**Networking**
- A Food Science and Technology Association was established and is now operating in Botswana.
- The Food Science and Technology Association in Ghana was strengthened.
- Several academic-industry linkages were created to establish co-operation in research on indigenous foods and exploring development opportunities for innovative food products.

#### Databases/Websites
- A web portal created for the M.Sc Agri-Food Safety and quality assurance in Trinidad and Tobago for the purpose of increasing the visibility of the postgraduate programme. It includes an overview of the programme, the skills and competencies to be acquired by learners, career prospects, detailed course outlines, a brief profile of the lecturers teaching the course, as well as the admission criteria and application forms for the institution.

#### Visibility

### Outcomes

- Partner HEIs able to generate quality research in food science and technology focusing on indigenous foods.
- Entrepreneurs empowered with skills to utilise, add value and market local indigenous food resources.
- The Botswana Food Science and Technology Association established.

### Impacts

**Usage**
- The students and partner communities have continued to access online courses offered in Trinidad and Tobago.
- The Food Science and Technology Association promotes indigenous foods, science and technology and provides an established link between academia (research) and industry.
- The entrepreneurs are able to apply the acquired technologies to enhance their businesses and benefit from local natural resources.

### TESTIMONIAL

**Nigel Chad Butts,**
Post-graduate student in the M.Sc Agri-Food Safety and Quality Assurance, The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago

“I have benefitted from the training received under the M.Sc Programme ‘Agri-Food Safety and Quality Assurance’ and conducted research on ‘The Sensory and Physiochemical Evaluation of Pepper Sauces in the Very Hot Category produced in Trinidad and Tobago versus Foreign Brands’ for which I have received a prize from the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries in recognition of the potential of added value within the food industry.”

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